

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR ASST SECRETARY HATHAWAY

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

REF: (A) STATE 037553 (B) BAKER-WOLF TELCON FEBRUARY 14

1. FODAG PUZZLED AT INSTRUCTION IN REFTEL BECAUSE:

(A) LIST OF ADDRESSEES DOES NOT CORRESPOND TO CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (DENMARK, GABON, GDR, MALAWI, MOROCCO, AND NETHERLANDS ARE NOW IN WFC AND CHAD, EGYPT, HUNGARY, KENYA, SWEDEN, AND UK ARE OUT);

(B) IT DOES NOT ADVISE ADDRESSEES THAT WFC SECRETARIAT REGARDS ITEM 4 AS PRIMARILY INFORMATIONAL AND ITEM 5 AS MAIN SUBSTANCE OF CONFERENCE;

(C) IT PROVIDES POSTS WITH NO BACKGROUND REGARDING TWO SUB-ITEMS IN AGENDA ITEM 5, ONE OF WHICH (NUTRITION) IS THERE PARTLY BECAUSE OF OUR INTEREST AND THE OTHER (FOOD PLANS) REPRESENTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE MAIN CURRENT THRUST OF THE WFC SECRETARIAT REGARDING WHICH INFORMED WFC MEMBERS WILL ASK OUR VIEWS; AND

(D) IT CONTAINS NO GUIDANCE WITH RESPECT TO GATHERING, MUCH LESS INFLUENCING, VIEWS OF WFC MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES HERE IN ROME.

2. IN OUR VIEW, OUR EMBASSIES SHOULD BE AT LEAST PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE RELATIVE PRIORITIES OF THE AGENDA ITEMS AND TO INDICATE AT THE VERY LEAST ON AN IF ASKED BASIS SOME U.S. PREFERENCES.

3. IF A TIGHTER AGENDA IS WANTED, WE COULD SUGGEST THAT, IN ANY DISCUSSION OF A SHORTER AGENDA, ITEM 4 BE ELIMINATED OR REWRITTEN TO INDICATE THAT PROGRESS REPORTS WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE TWO SUB-TOPICS BUT NO TIME ALLOTTED FOR DISCUSSION DURING THE MEETING. WITH REGARD TO 4A, SINCE AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES ARE TO BE ON THE AGENDA OF FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCES THIS SUMMER AND FALL, THE WFC COULD RATIONALIZE AVOIDANCE OF DISCUSSION OR ATTEMPT AT RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE PRIORITIES AND INTERESTS OF THE MAIN REGIONS OUGHT TO BE HEARD.

4. NOT HAVING A CLEAR VIEW OF WASHINGTON EVALUATION OF WALTER'S EMPHASIS ON FOOD PLANS, FODAG REUCTANT TO RATE ITS PRIORITY AS COMPARED TO RESEARCH. WE SHOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT ANY PROPOSALS TO EMPHASIZE RESEARCH MORE RATHER THAN LESS IN A REDUCED AGENDA WILL ADD TO FAO APPREHENSIONS AS DG WILL INTERPRET IT AS THRUSTING WFC INTO AREA OF CONCERN IDENTIFIED BY ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION--ONE OF WHICH FAO'S OWN PROPOSALS PRESENTED RECENTLY IN A WASHINGTON MEETING ON RESEARCH BY FAO BOMMER REPORTEDLY MORE OR LESS IGNORED.

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5. IMPLICATION THAT WE ARE SO FLEXIBLE THAT WE WOULD BE INDIFFERENT TO ANY SUGGESTIONS BY OTHER WFC MEMBERS TO DROP FOCUS ON NUTRITION SURPRISES US. WOULD APPRECIATE, IN VIEW OF UPCOMING MARCH MEETING HERE ON NUTRITION, HAVING LATEST U.S. VIEWS ON THIS AREA OF CONCERN.

6. FODAG STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT HOLD ACTION BE PUT ON REFTEL WHILE ABOVE COMMENTS ARE REVIEWED PERHAPS WITH BENEFIT OF HATHAWAY'S INPUTS SOUGHT BY REPEATING REFTEL TO GENEVA.

7. FODAG FURTHER RECOMMENDS THAT, IF TIGHTER AGENDA DESIRED, WE SUGGEST TO WFC AND KEY MEMBERS REPRESENTED HERE EARLY NEXT WEEK THAT WE THINK AGENDA SHOULD CLEARLY INDICATE THAT DISCUSSION OF AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE SHOULD BE AVOIDED. GARDNER

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